



Birthday Celebration Rites of Passage Experience

Your child's first birthday will be a once in a lifetime moment. It will be the 1st, and maybe only, time your child is covered head to toe with cake, and it's OK. In fact, it's endearing, and we're upset if they don't smear it all over. Our desire is to make this birthday even more memorable by sharing a birthday celebration you'll write and share with friends and family at your child's first birthday party.

To write the birthday celebration you've done 3 kick starters which have helped with processing what's truly most important to you in raising your little one. You've identified the characteristics most important to you and why they're important.

Now it's time to put this in written form so that you can share it with the people present at your child's 1st birthday party. This happens best when it's written as a letter from you to your child. A letter telling him/her those characteristics you value most, why they're important, and how you plan to instill them in your child. We ask you to share this with the friends and family present at the birthday because they'll be the ones to help you make this goal possible. They'll encourage your child in these

characteristics because they'll know them too.

In the birthday celebration letter to your child you'll include:

- **2-3 characteristics that you want to develop in your child**
- **why those characteristics are important**
- **how you plan to parent in order to teach these characteristics**

Capitalize on this moment by making it into something that can be referenced throughout your baby's childhood.

Frame it and keep it visible. Put it inside a baby book/scrapbook. It would be great to share this birthday celebration letter at every birthday. Even reading it every year on your child's birthday with the immediate family would increase the likelihood that this letter would become more than just words in your child's life, but actual reality.

See the sample birthday letter as a frame of reference for writing your child's birthday celebration.



Sample Letter

Dear Sam,

We are so grateful for God's gift of you to us. This first year we have noticed how much of an independent spirit you are. You are able to keep yourself preoccupied playing because of the amazingly creative personality God has instilled in you.

Our greatest desire is for you to grow to be someone who displays the love of Jesus. As you grow you'll come into contact with tons of people, all of which have been uniquely created by God. We want you to see them the way God does. As your parents, we will try our best to model this for you.

We also want you to live a life full of adventure. We want you to be a risk taker. We definitely already see this in you, and although it can be a little scary at times, we know God can use this character trait He's put in you. We want you to live life full throttle, making the most of every moment. We'll try not to inhibit this risk taking characteristic too much.

We love you and are grateful that we've already seen sparks of creativity, risk taking, and compassion in you. We'll do our best to help you become the person God has created you to be and not just the person we want you to be.

-Mom and Dad